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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,260	07/14/2003	Srimanth Gunturi	5577-260	9972
46589	7590	09/10/2007		
MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY SAJOVEC P.A. PO BOX 37428 RALEIGH, NC 27627			EXAMINER TRAN, TUYETLIEN T	
			ART UNIT 2179	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/10/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

mn

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,260

Applicant(s)

GUNTURI ET AL.

Examiner

TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment filed 5/29/07.

This action is made non-final.

2. Claims 1-21 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are independent claims.
Claims 3, 10 and 17 are amended claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Applicant's amendment corrects the previous rejection; therefore the previous rejection is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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5. Claims 1-4, 7-11, 14-18, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King et al (Patent No. US 6252592 B1, hereinafter King) in view of Childress (Patent No. 4646250; hereinafter Childress).

As to claim 1, King teaches:

A method for displaying a plurality of visual elements associated with a computer program application (e.g., see Fig. 2 and col. 3 lines 53-67), said method comprising:

defining a sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements (e.g., see col. 3 lines 53-67 and Fig. 2); and

displaying at least one graphical linking element with the plurality of visual elements (e.g., see Fig. 2; note that labels 1-7 represent the tab association between visual elements "name" to "delete" which is interpreted as graphical linking element), wherein the at least one graphical linking element represents the sequential tabbing order (e.g., see col. 3 lines 53-67 and Fig. 2).

King does not expressly teach that the graphical linking element extending between the plurality of visual elements.

However, Childress teaches a user interface displaying a plurality of visual elements comprising a feature of defining a sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements that conventionally allows the cursor to be moved to the next data entry field in response to the user presses the tab key (e.g., see col. 1 lines 21-38). Childress further teaches line segments with direction graphical element extending between the plurality of visual elements (e.g., an arrow) is used to identify data entry field (e.g., see Fig. 1 and col. 2 lines 18-51).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the graphical linking element as taught by King to include the graphical linking element extending between the plurality of visual elements because one skilled

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in the art would reasonably be expected to display arrows demonstrating the connection between the visual elements to provide visual cues for data entry field identification and as suggested by King, the motivation for the combination is to make it easier and convenient for a developer to view and set the tabbing order associating with a particular visual element in order to insure the accuracy of the tabbing order (e.g., see King col. 3 lines 4-10).

As to claim 8, claim 8 reflects the system for displaying on a display device a plurality of visual elements associated with a computer program application (e.g., see King Figs. 1-2 and col. 1 lines 6-10), the system comprising means for performing the method steps as claimed in claim 1, and are rejected along the same rationale.

As to claim 15, claim 15 reflects a computer program product for displaying a plurality of visual elements associated with a computer program application, computer program product comprising computer readable program code (e.g., see King col. 13 lines 14-19) configured for performing the method steps as claimed in claim 1, and are rejected along the same rationale.

As to claims 2, 9 and 16, King further teaches:

displaying a first graphical linking element in the sequential tabbing order that associates the first visual element and a second visual element (e.g., see labels 1, 2 and elements "name" and "address" in Fig. 2)

displaying a second graphical linking element in the sequential tabbing order that associates the second visual element and a third visual element (e.g., see labels 2, 3 and elements "address" and blank field in Fig. 2)

Childress further teaches:

displaying a first graphical linking element extending between a first visual element and a second visual element (e.g., see Fig. 1 and col. 2 lines 18-51); and

displaying a second graphical linking element extending between the second visual element and a third visual element (e.g., see Fig. 1 and col. 2 lines 18-51).

Thus, combining King and Childress would meet the claimed limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 1, 8 and 15 above.

As to claims 3, 10 and 17, King further teaches numerically labeling the visual elements on the user interface in the sequential tabbing order (e.g., see Fig. 2).

Childress teaches a user interface displaying a plurality of visual elements comprising a feature of defining a sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements that conventionally allows the cursor to be moved to the next data entry field in response to the user presses the tab key (e.g., see col. 1 lines 21-38). Childress further suggests to a skilled artisan that line segment with a graphical element that indicates the direction extending between the plurality of visual elements (e.g., an arrow) is used to identify data entry field (e.g., see Fig. 1 and col. 2 lines 18-51).

Thus, combining King and Childress would meet the claimed limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 1, 8 and 15 above.

As to claims 4, 11 and 18, King further teaches displaying a plurality of textual order tags such that each of the textual order tags is located adjacent a respective one of the plurality of visual elements and includes text indicating a relative rank of the respective one of the plurality of visual elements in the sequential tabbing order (e.g., see King Fig. 2 and col. 3 lines 53-67).

As to claims 7, 14 and 21, King further teaches defining a second sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements (e.g., "add" and "delete" may form a second tabbing group, see col. 4 lines 1-13), wherein the first sequential tabbing order includes a first visual

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element not in the second sequential tabbing order (e.g., note that the first sequential tabbing order includes "name", "address", "telephone" and "credit card" which are not included in the second tabbing order as mentioned above, see col. 4 lines 1-13), and the second sequential tabbing order includes a second visual element not in the first sequential tabbing order (e.g., see col. 4 lines 1-13);

displaying a first graphical linking element associating the first visual element and another of the plurality of visual elements, wherein the first graphical linking element represents at least a portion of the first sequential tabbing order (e.g., a distinct tabbing order may be defined within each tabbing group, see col. 4 lines 1-13); and

displaying a second graphical linking element associating the second visual element and another of the plurality of visual elements, wherein the second graphical linking element represents at least a portion of the second sequential tabbing order (e.g., a distinct tabbing order may be defined within each tabbing group, see col. 4 lines 1-13).

Childress teaches a user interface displaying a plurality of visual elements comprising a feature of defining a sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements that conventionally allows the cursor to be moved to the next data entry field in response to the user presses the tab key (e.g., see col. 1 lines 21-38). Childress further suggests to a skilled artisan that line segment with a graphical element that indicates the direction extending between the plurality of visual elements (e.g., an arrow) is used to identify data entry field (e.g., see Fig. 1 and col. 2 lines 18-51).

Thus, combining King and Childress would meet the claimed limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 1, 8 and 15 above.

6. Claims 5-6, 12-13, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King et al (Patent No. US 6252592 B1, hereinafter King) in view of

Childress (Patent No. 4646250; hereinafter Childress) further in view of Cox et al (published paper "Grouping objects for Tabbing and Cursoring in Visual Programming", 05/05/1995, pp 561-563; hereinafter Cox).

As to claims 5, 12 and 19, King and Childress teach the limitations of claims 1, 8 and 15 for the same reasons as discussed above. King further teaches changing the tabbing order of the visual elements in a user interface for an application (e.g., see King col. 2 lines 61-65); however, King and Childress do not expressly teach that reconfiguring the at least one graphical linking element to reflect a new sequential tabbing order responsive to a modification of the sequential tabbing order.

Cox teaches reconfiguring the at least one graphical linking element to reflect a new sequential tabbing order responsive to a modification of the sequential tabbing order (e.g., see Cox page 562 and Figs. 3a and 3b). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the feature of reconfiguring at least one graphical linking element to reflect a new sequential tabbing order as taught by Cox to the method of displaying the tabbing order as taught by King and Childress to achieve the claimed invention. The motivation for the combination explicitly comes from the suggestion in King's teaching (e.g., note the incorporated reference of Cox in the reference of King, e.g., see King col. 4 lines 5-13).

As to claims 6, 13 and 20, Cox further teaches modifying the sequential tabbing order responsive to user input relocating the at least one graphical linking element relative to at least one of the plurality of visual elements (e.g., see Cox page 562 and Figs. 3a and 3b). Thus, combining King and Childress with Cox would meet the claimed limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 5, 12 and 19 above.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 5/29/07 have been fully considered but they are moot in new ground of rejections.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action.

It is noted that any citation to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. In re Heck, 699 F.2d 1331, 1332-33,216 USPQ 1038, 1039 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (quoting In re Lemelson, 397 F.2d 1006,1009, 158 USPQ 275,277 (CCPA 1968)).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-270-1033. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday: 7:30 - 5:00, off on alternating Friday.

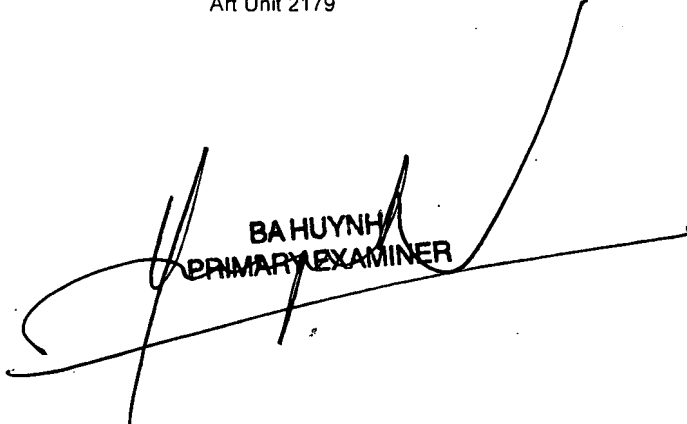
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

T.T
9/04/2007

Lien Tran
Examiner
Art Unit 2179


BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER